

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 28, 2008. Claims 1-5, 11-13, 15-18, and 22-28 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 11, 13, 22, 27, and 28 are in independent form. Claim 23 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein. Claims 22 and 24-28 have been amended. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's statement that claims 1-5, 11-13, and 15-18 are allowed, and that claims 23-26 would be allowable if rewritten in proper independent form or so as not to depend from a rejected claim. Applicants respectfully submit that such amendments have been made. Particularly, independent claims 22 and 27 have been amended to incorporate the features of claim 23. Claim 28 has been amended to recite the same features as amended claim 22, and is believed to be patentable for the same reasons. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22 and 24-28 are patentable, and respectfully request that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

CONCLUSION

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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